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FROM: Managua

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 80, February 2, 8 p. m.

Re DEPTCIRTEL 283, February 1.

Editorial reaction Guatemalan accusations not yet plentiful. Most papers point out that obviously there are not hundreds of American soldiers here. All papers carried complete text Somoza statement and continue carrying press association despatches. Lombardo Toledano and communism generally blamed for spread false rumors. Some papers and many members diplomatic corps believe charges smokescreen hiding some Guatemalan scheme possibly to break up ODECA or interfere with OEA conference Caracas. Charges have undoubtedly strengthened anti-Communist forces here and public in general views Guatemala with disgust.

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

658
DESP. NO.

FROM : AMEMBASSY, GUATEMALA

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

February 2, 1954
DATE

REF : Emb. Desp. 653, February 1, 1954

FEB 3 1954

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION RECD	DEPT.	DC/R-2 OLI-6 P-1
	2/5	INFO OTHER	C/A-7 OSD-2 ARMY-3 NAVY-3 AIR-3

SUBJECT: Guatemalan Foreign Ministry Makes Informal Representations to Nicaragua re Alleged Plot.

A few moments after the Guatemalan Government released its statement charging that President SOMOZA of Nicaragua and his son had backed a plot to overthrow the Arbenz Administration by Colonel Carlos CASTILLO Armas (Embassy Despatch 653, February 1), Foreign Minister Guillermo TORIELLO on January 29 summoned Sr. Aurelio MONTENEGRO, the Nicaraguan Ambassador, and handed him a copy of the government's statement together with the supporting photostats purporting to represent correspondence concerning the plot between Castillo Armas and the Somozas and others. At a press conference later in the day Toriello explained that his meeting with Ambassador Montenegro had been purely informal and that the Guatemalan Government had no thought of breaking diplomatic relations with Nicaragua.

Immediately after interviewing the Foreign Minister, Ambassador Montenegro flew off to Managua carrying along with him Sr. Carlos GANDARA Durán, the retired newspaperman who had taken refuge in his Embassy during the recent wave of arrests. It was while Ambassador Montenegro was in Nicaragua that President Somoza made his detailed denial that he or his son were implicated in the plot and asserted that the documents photostated were a maneuver by Guatemalan exiles to make difficulties between Guatemala and Nicaragua.

Returning to Guatemala, Ambassador Montenegro called on the Foreign Minister and offered the foregoing explanation. Later, in a private conversation with me, he said that the Minister accepted the explanation. Ambassador Montenegro, after the interview, said that "cordial" relations existed between Guatemala and Nicaragua, and that the "misunderstanding" between the two had been dissipated. He affirmed that Nicaragua maintained its traditional policy of non-intervention.

William L. Krieg
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

cc: AmEmbassy, Managua

JCHill:cs

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